



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: August 15, 2019

Agenda Item: Garrity WMA Stumptown Addition, R2

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

FWP is seeking endorsement to pursue acquiring 600 acres of riparian, grassland, and forested habitat to add to the Garrity Mountain Wildlife Management Area (GMWMA) west of Anaconda in Deer Lodge County (see Figure). The proposed acquisition is currently privately owned and is at immediate risk for development or subdivision. The property includes 0.7 miles of Warm Springs Creek that offers abundant fishing opportunities and contains native westslope cutthroat trout and federally threatened bull trout. The riparian area around the stream is wide and diverse and provides for a diverse variety of game and nongame species. The uplands include aspen stands, mixed-conifer forests, and grasslands, and a large portion of the uplands is elk and deer winter range. The acquisition would offer important access for hunting, hiking, birdwatching, and other outdoor activities. Overall, the proposed addition would allow improved connectivity between high- and low-elevation habitats on the GMWMA and greatly increase access to outdoor recreation opportunities in the Anaconda area.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

Formal public involvement has not been solicited by FWP to date. Initial outreach efforts to local sportsperson groups have indicated enthusiastic public support. Upon endorsement by the commission, FWP would conduct appropriate due diligence, analysis, and public review processes.

Alternatives & Analysis:

Proposal alternatives and analysis would be developed by FWP (upon endorsement by the commission) and released in a draft EA for public review/comment opportunity.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends endorsement of this proposal, allowing the department to further pursue and evaluate it and to offer opportunities for public review and comment.

Proposed Motion:

I move the commission endorse the proposal to negotiate acquisition of the Stumptown Addition to the Garrity Mountain WMA and complete associated analysis.